Gas from abroad

†2438. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether international conditions are hindrance in obtaining gas from neighbouring countries;

(b) the names of the countries from where gas is expected to be obtained as per the agreements with each country and the time when it would be obtained; and

(c) the expected percentage of contribution of gas in total energy by the end of this Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to enhance energy security of the country, import of natural gas is being pursued from Iran and Turkmenistan through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project and Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline Project respectively. Various important issues concerning the Projects are under discussion amongst the participating countries. Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the projects. Implementation of the Project(s) will start only after satisfactory resolution of the issues under discussion amongst the countries participating in the Project(s).

India is importing gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) has signed a contract with RasGas, Qatar in July 1999 for import of 7.5 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) LNG for a period of 25 years. As per the contract, supply of 5 mmtpa LNG commenced in 2004 and the supply of balance 2.5 mmtpa LNG would commence in 2009. PLL also has a short-term contract with RasGas Qatar for supply of 1.5 mmtpa LNG till September 2009. Further, spot LNG is being sourced from various countries.

(c) As per the Eleventh Plan document brought out by the Planning Commission, considering 9% GDP growth and timely materialization of the projects during the plan period, the share of natural gas in energy supplies in the terminal year of Eleventh Five Year Plan, *i.e.*, 2011-12, is likely to be 15-16%.

Price of imported gas

2439. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the progress on piped natural gas from Iran;

(b) whether it is a fact that price of gas from Iran is expected to be around $ 12/MM BTU;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.